SCOTT'S SWEET CLOVER

THE UNIVERSAL PLANT

Experiment Stations are very strongly recommending sweet clover for the reasons given below. In many districts the growing of Red Clover is being seriously hampered by various diseases. Sweet Clover is the solution. It is a great deal cheaper than Red. Nothing else can be sowed that will do so much for the ground.

O. M. SCOTT & SONS CO., Marysville, Ohio

1. Are there different kinds of sweet clover? Three are well known in this country: the white biennial, yellow biennial, and yellow annual. The last named is no good.

2. Which is the better, the white or the yellow biennial ? The white, because of its larger growth, but the yellow is preferred by many for pasture and even for hay owing to its finer stems.

3. What kinds of soils are adapted to the growth of sweet clover ? Sweet clover will grow on almost any soil, however poor, but it is helped by liming. It will grow on poor clay hills, wornout pastures and steep washy slopes where it will check erosion of the soil and help to restore some of its lost fertility.

4. Must the land be tiled ? Sweet clover is more tolerant of poor drainage, overflow and seepage conditions than any other clover.

5. Does black-spot, mildew, clover rust or other clover diseases attack it ? Sweet clover is practically free from every known legume disease, and because of the cumarin in the sap, neither the root borer, nor any other pests bother it. Because of its immunity experiment stations are advocating it as a substitute for red.

6. How much moisture is required for the plant ? Just as much as you have. It will grow on three-fifths the rainfall required by other clovers. Is grown in Western Kansas where the rainfall is 11 inches. and on the other hand it grows in wet places, and thrives where alfalfa drowns.

7. But isn't this a weed, and how can it be gotten rid of ? A sweet clover plant lives two years and then dies. It adds nitrogen and humus to the soil faster than any other plant. Its large deep roots loosen up the sub-soil. A pretty good weed to have around. It does not persist as a weed in cultivated fields.

8. What benefit is sweet clover to a badly washed field ? Grows without drainage, and, because of the root-system, prevents further erosion. More about this root-system later.

9. Is it easy to get a stand of sweet clover ? Except that sweet clover requires more moisture than other clovers to start germination, it is as easy as with red or alsike; it is surer than alfalfa.

10. Will stock eat it ? All stock will not eat corn silage at first, but after a few days they develop a taste for it. It is the same with sweet clover.

11. How soon can sweet clover be pastured ? Unlike other clovers, you don't need to wait until the second year, but can turn in, as soon as plants are 8 inches to a foot high, usually in June. If seeded in wheat, oats, or rye, just as soon as you cut these crops. Then you will have an abundance of pasture when other pastures are dried up or dead. It never bloats.

12. How long can it be pastured ? The second year, two weeks earlier in spring and that much later in the fall, because sweet clover is more frost resistant.

13. How does sweet clover compare with other clovers in feeding capacity per acre ? A test made by Iowa State Agricultural Experiment Station, showed that it supported 2½ more head of fattening hogs than other clovers under the same conditions, and showed a profit of $6 more per acre.

14. Does sweet clover pay as a hay crop? Most assuredly. One crop can be cut the first year and two crops the second year.

15. Does it make a profitable seed crop ? We know of several men who this year received more than $100.00 per acre for their seed.

16. Does it yield as much hay as other clovers ? More than any other, except alfalfa. From 1 to 3 tons are obtained the first year and from 2 to 4 tons the second year, from both cuttings.

17. How can sweet clover be used for silage ? Cut with a binder and run into silo with alternate loads of corn. This increases the protein content of your corn silage. It makes about 10 tons per acre.

18. How are wornout pastures renewed? Treat such areas with a ton of lime, if convenient, and 100 to 200 pounds of phosphate per acre. Slip over this with a harrow and seed broadcast in winter or early spring. The sweet clover adds to the amount of pasturage, and the grasses are improved by the addition of humus and nitrogen furnished by the clover.

19. How much nitrogen will the plant gather when inoculated ? Hopkins at the Illinois Experiment Station determined that nearly mature plants yielded 10367 pounds of dry matter to an acre. They contained 197 pounds of nitrogen.

20. What is the best method of inoculation ? The use of pure cultures. Ask for Scott's Bacteria Questions and Answers. Scott's Bacteria is guaranteed to produce nodules. A dollar can is enough for 30 pounds of sweet clover.

21. Is it advisable to plow under a crop for green manure ? You would add from 20 to 30 tons of humus to your soil besides nitrogen—enough to grow 3 big crops of corn.

22. How extensive a root system has this plant ? By far the most extensive of any legume.

23. When does the plant die ? After the second year and the big roots decay in 30 days adding their humus to the soil and opening it in fine shape for drainage.

24. When should it be seeded ? Like red clover it may be seeded with winter or spring cereals, or on the bare ground from February to the last of April. Or may be seeded in July and August alone.

25. What kind of a seed bed does sweet clover like ? It likes a firm compact soil, as is shown by its heavy growth along roadsides. It grows readily on corn stubble.

26. How much seed should be sown per acre ? 12 to 15 pounds of hulled seed. The less amount if drilled and the greater if broadcasted, 20 pounds of unhulled.

27. What kind of seed is best ? Hulled and scarified white sweet.

28. What is scarified seed ? It is seed that has had the hard seed coat scratched, so that water can get in to start growth.

29. How can I judge of the quality of samples from different seed houses ? See Page 13, in "Scott's Field Seeds."

30. Why is Scott's Sweet Clover superior to others ? It is carefully selected for freedom from weed seeds and thoroughly cleaned to remove dead grains.

31. Is it hard work to break a sweet clover sod ? No, the larger fleshy roots are easily cut with the plow share.

32. Why was the value of sweet clover overlooked so long that many people think it is a weed ? It has been cultivated for centuries in Europe and Asia, but as long as American soil kept its original fertility there was no incentive to learn the advantages of crops like sweet clover.

33. What advantages has sweet clover over red clover ? (a) It is much less subject to diseases; Anthracnose and root rot are making sad havoc with red clover in many sections. (b) It will add more nitrogen to the soil than red clover.

34. To sum up, what are the profitable characteristics of sweet clover ? It can be pastured early in the spring and late in the fall; stands trampling; increases the flow of milk. It produces seed abundantly. It makes hay that is as nutritious as alfalfa. Does well anywhere if lime enough is present. The stubble and roots add humus to the soil and the root nodules store large quantities of nitrogen. It has no equal as green manure. It is easily eradicated and, unlike vetch, is never a nuisance in grain fields. Give it a chance on your farm and you will discover many other good qualities.

35. Where can I learn more about this wonderful legume ? Write your Experiment Station, send to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, for bulletins 797 and 820. Ask for "Scott's Field Seeds." And don't forget to ask for Questions and Answers on Soy Beans and Scott's Bacteria.